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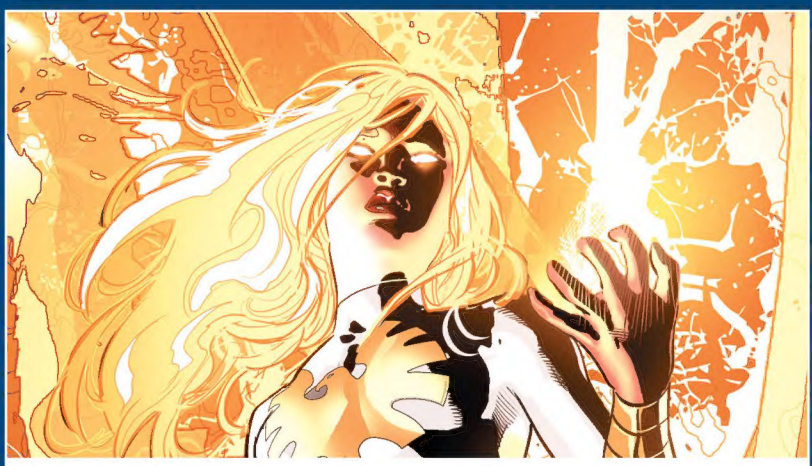
EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES, UNITED AGAINST A COMMON THREAT! ON THAT DAY THE AVENGERS WERE BORN, TO FIGHT FOES THAT NO SINGLE HERO COULD WITHSTAND!

NEW AVENGERS



THE PHOENIX FORCE IS HEADED TOWARDS EARTH. THE AVENGERS BELIEVE THAT IT IS A DESTRUCTIVE FORCE THAT WILL LAY WASTE TO THE EARTH WHILE THE X-MEN BELIEVE IT IS A FORCE OF REBIRTH THAT COULD REIGNITE THE MUTANT RACE. BOTH BELIEVE IT WILL USE YOUNG MUTANT HOPE SUMMERS AS ITS AVATAR.

BUT THIS IS NOT THE PHOENIX'S FIRST VISIT TO EARTH. CENTURIES AGO, THERE WAS AN IRON FIST WHO WAS THE VESSEL FOR THE PHOENIX.

THIS IS HER STORY.

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MS. MARVEL

THING

IRON FIST

SPIDER-MAN

WOLVERINE

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Years Ago.
MY NAME IS CHAN KONG-SANG.
I HAVE COME A GREAT DISTANCE TO SEE YOU.
SO I'VE BEEN TOLD.
WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
I AM A MESSENGER.
I COME FROM A GREAT CITY THAT SITS IN THE SPACE BETWEEN SPACES OF TIBET.
THE IMMORTAL CITY OF K'UN LUN.
HAVE YOU HEARD OF IT?
NO.
ANOTHER HIDDEN CITY.
HIDDEN FROM THE SOCIETIES OF MEN. YES.
OUR MASTER, YU TI, HAD A POWERFUL VISION.
THIS IS A MAN OF THE HIGHEST LEARNING. THIS IS A MAN WHO HAS TOTAL CONTROL OVER HIS MIND AND BODY.
HIS VISION IS MORE THAN A DREAM. IT IS A PROPHECY.
DO YOU BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF PROPHECY?
I DO, ACTUALLY.
VERY MUCH SO.
MASTER YU TI HAS PROPHESIED THAT A BIRD OF FIRE IS COMING FROM THE SKY.
THE SPIRIT OF FIRE WILL BURN THIS WORLD AND EVERYTHING ON IT.
WHAT WOULD MASTER YU TI HAVE ME DO?
IN THE PROPHECY, THERE IS A WOMAN, A GIRL, WHO IS ABLE TO, AS HE SAYS, EMBODY THE FIRE, BATTLE IT, MAYBE CONTROL IT.
HAVE YOU FOUND THIS WOMAN?
THE MASTER THINKS SO...
BUT WE NEED TO PREPARE.
WE DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH TIME WE HAVE. WE DON'T KNOW WHERE OR WHEN THE BIRD OF FIRE WILL COME.
WOULD YOU COME BACK TO K'UN LUN WITH ME? WOULD YOU HELP US?
ME?

THE ENTIRE WORLD KNOWS OF LEONARDO DA VINCI.
IT IS THE MASTER'S BELIEF THAT OF EVERYONE ON EARTH, ONLY YOU HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE TO HELP US SEE THE PROPHECY THROUGH TO ITS NATURAL CONCLUSION.
WELL, HOW COULD I SAY NO TO THAT?

TEMPLE OF THE DRAGON OF K'UN LUN. MANY YEARS AGO.

WHY DO YOU NOT SPEAK?

MASTER YU TI IS SPEAKING TO YOU, PETULANT CHILD!

ATTACK ME.

YOU WILL NOT SPEAK, SO ACT.

YOU'RE ANGRY, THEN BE ANGRY.

ATTACK ME.

I GIVE YOU PERMISSION... JUST THIS ONCE.

WHAT DID I EXPECT, YOU HALF-BREED RUNT.

YOUR WHORE OF A MOTHER RUINED YOU BEFORE YOU EVER TOOK A BREATH.

SHE BEDDED A STRANGER FROM THE WESTERN WORLD THEN SOLD YOU TO ME FOR A DINNER.

HA HA HA!
SILENCE!
SOMEONE ESCORT THIS MOP OUT OF THIS TEMPLE OF SPIRIT.
CRACK

TAP
YOU ARE NOT AN ANIMAL. YOU ARE A NOBLE WARRIOR.
YOU WILL LEARN TO FIGHT LIKE A WARRIOR.
YOU WILL LEARN TO CONTROL YOUR EMOTIONS. YOU WILL LEARN TO EXPRESS OTHER PARTS OF YOURSELF.
AND IT IS UP TO YOU WHETHER YOU DO IT WITH A BROKEN HAND OR NOT.
MASTER LEI KUNG, YOU HAVE YOUR WORK CUT OUT FOR YOU.
MAY THE DRAGON LORD GUIDE YOUR SPIRIT.

PLEASE HURRY...SHE IS THE NEW IRON FIST.

WELL...
I MUST TELL YOU, CHAN, WHATEVER DOUBT OR SUSPICION I MAY HAVE HAD ABOUT THIS PILGRIMAGE...
...I HAVE IT NO LONGER.
YES.
WELCOME...
...TO THE IMMORTAL CITY OF K'UN LUN.

AGAIN!
NOT FAST ENOUGH!
IS THAT HER?
THAT IS.
WHAT IS HER NAME?
FONGJI.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO HER?
TRAINING.
GET UP!
THE TIGER CLAW POSITION!
NOW!

AGAIN!

MAY I SPEAK WITH HER?

SHE DOESN'T SPEAK.

SHE DOESN'T SPEAK? IS SHE MUTE?

I DO NOT KNOW.

AGAIN!

YAHA!

WHACK

I SAID TIGER CLAW!

SHOW ME.

WASTING MY TIME!

ARE YOU HUNGRY AFTER YOUR JOURNEY?

I WOULD LIKE TO WATCH THIS AND THEN I WOULD LIKE TO SIT WITH THE GIRL.

I WILL NEED SOME OF HER BLOOD AND URINE.

YOU NEED TO BE FASTER.

HAS THAT EVER HAPPENED BEFORE?
NO.
WH-- WAS THAT IT?
I DON'T BELIEVE SO.
I BELIEVE IT MAY HAVE BEEN A TREMOR.
A WARNING.
NEVER DOUBT A PROPHECY.
WHAT ARE THESE MEN DOING? THE REST OF THEM?
THEY STUDY HERE.
I'M GOING TO NEED THEIR HELP.
TO DO WHAT?

"BUILD."

IT WOULD BE IN OUR BEST INTEREST TO TRY TO LOCATE THIS FIREBIRD BEFORE IT LANDS ON US. MAYBE WE CAN TRACK IT, PLOT ITS COURSE.

THIS MACHINEWORK OF MY DESIGN WILL HOPEFULLY GIVE US MORE THAN A MOMENT'S NOTICE OF THE GREAT BIRD'S ARRIVAL.

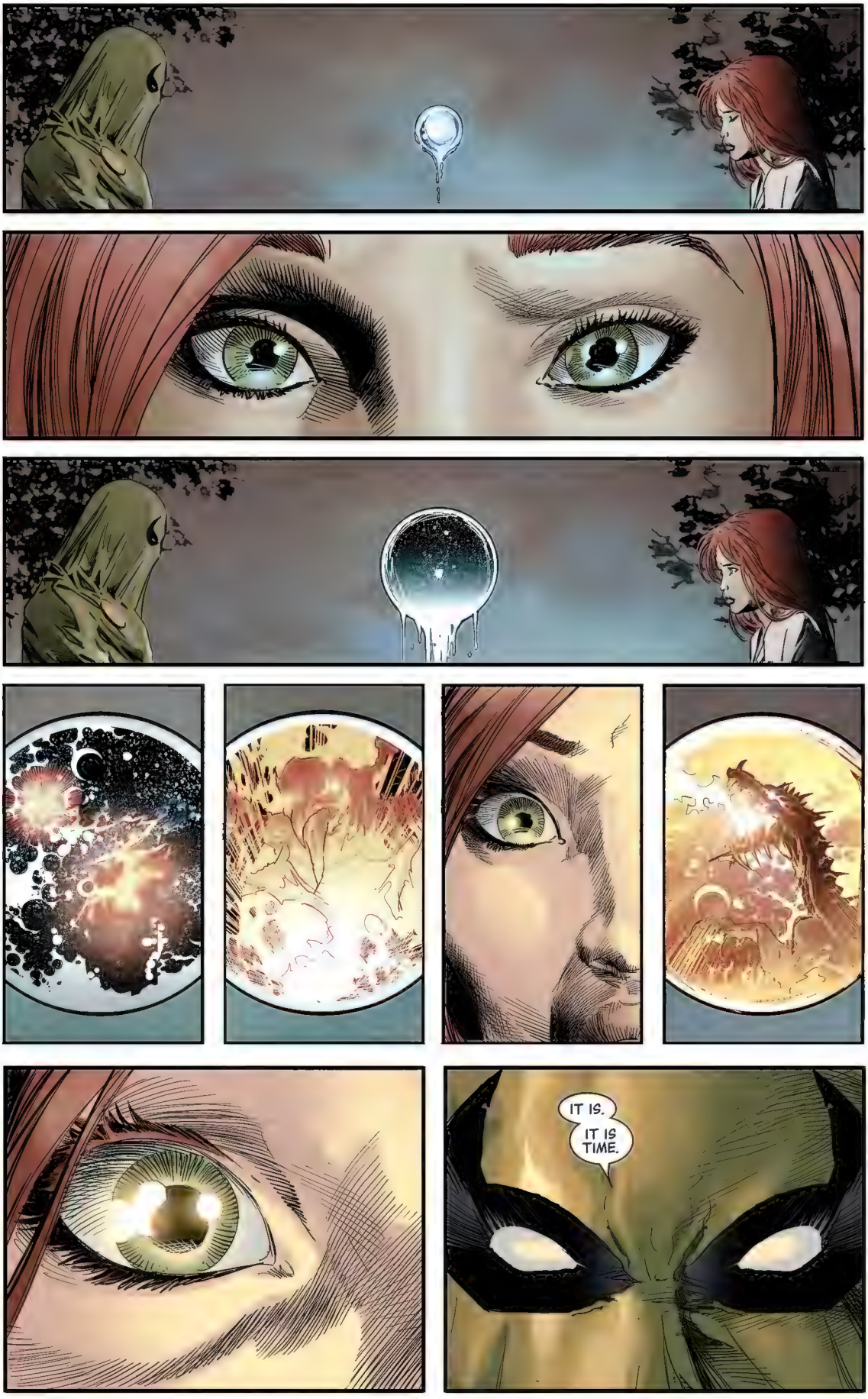
THERE'S NO DOUBT IN MY MIND IT IS COMING HERE--NO DOUBT THAT WE ARE ABOUT TO BE WITNESS TO A COSMIC EVENT.

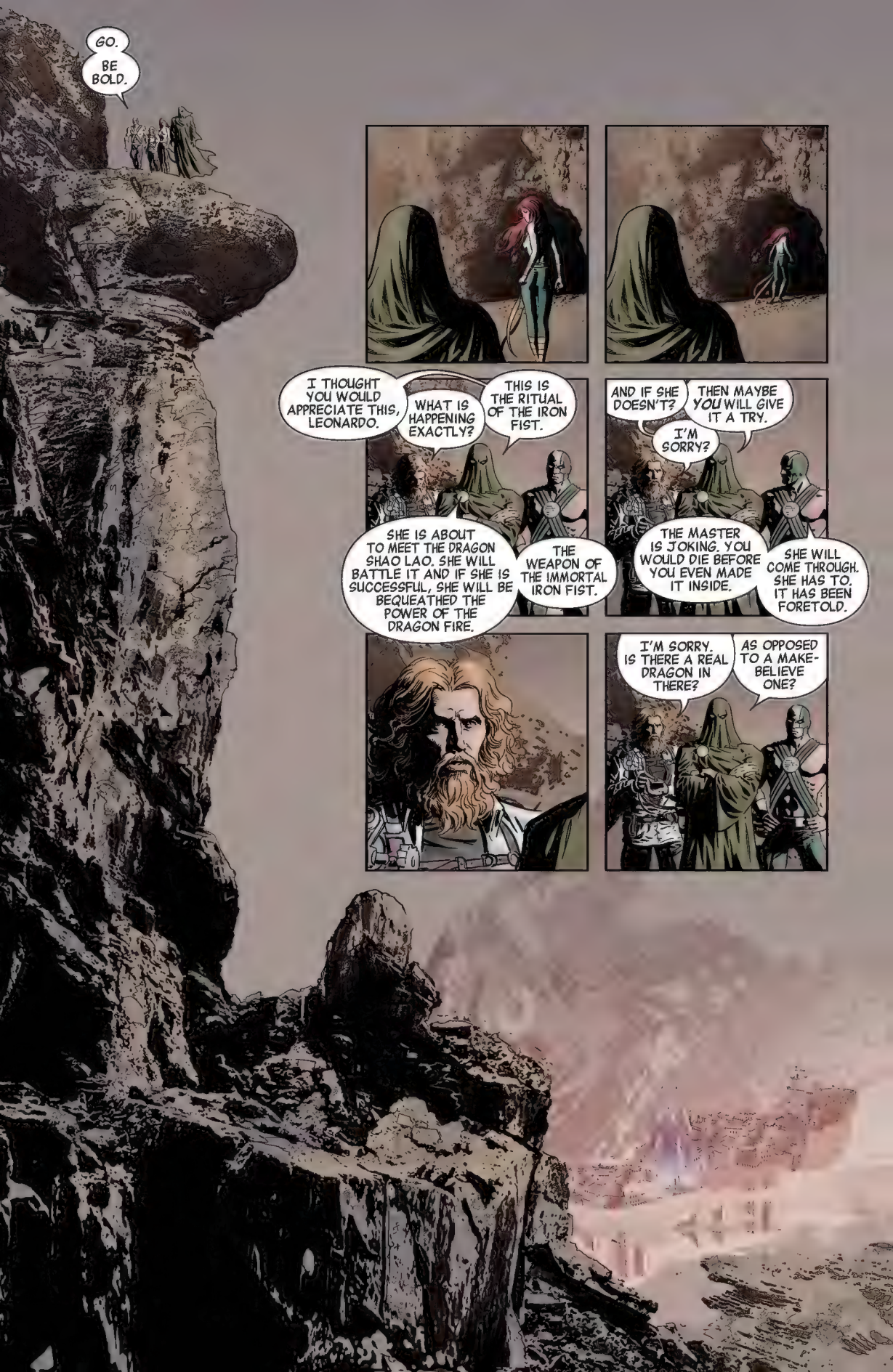
IT IS ALL VERY EXCITING IF NOT FOR THE CHANCE THAT EXTINCTION MAY BE AT HAND.

BUT I FEEL THE MASTER'S PROPHECY IS CORRECT. I BELIEVE, IF THE GIRL READIES HERSELF, WE ARE ABOUT TO BE VISITED... NOT DESTROYED.

IT WOULD BE A MOMENTOUS OCCASION TO UNDERSTAND HOW THIS CREATURE CAME TO BE AND WHAT ITS COSMIC CONNECTION IS TO US--TO THIS PLACE, TO THIS PLANET.

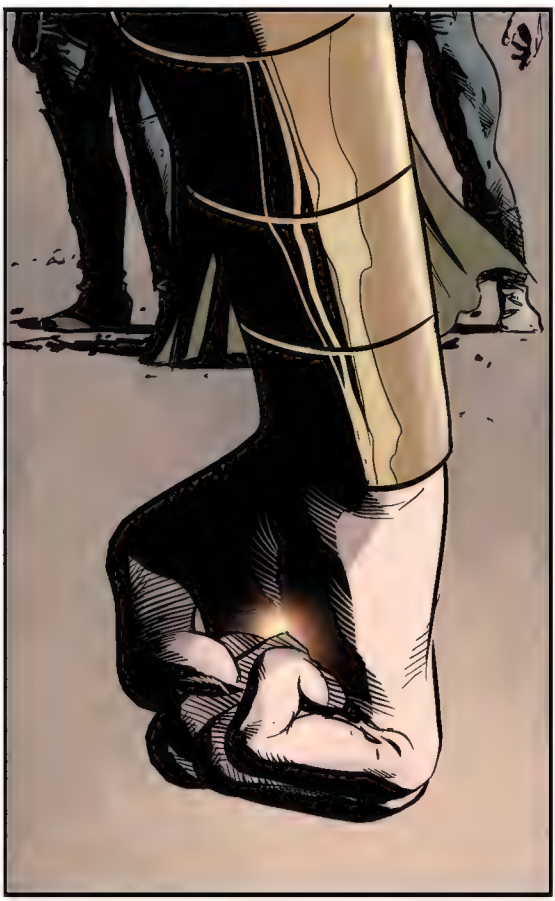
THIS IS THE SCRYING VESSEL OF BO-LING.
ALL THAT IS REQUIRED IS THAT YOU SIT.
EMPTY YOUR MIND.
THE WATER WILL TELL US THAT WHICH WE NEED TO KNOW. IF WE ARE WORTHY.
EMPTY YOUR MIND, FONGJI.

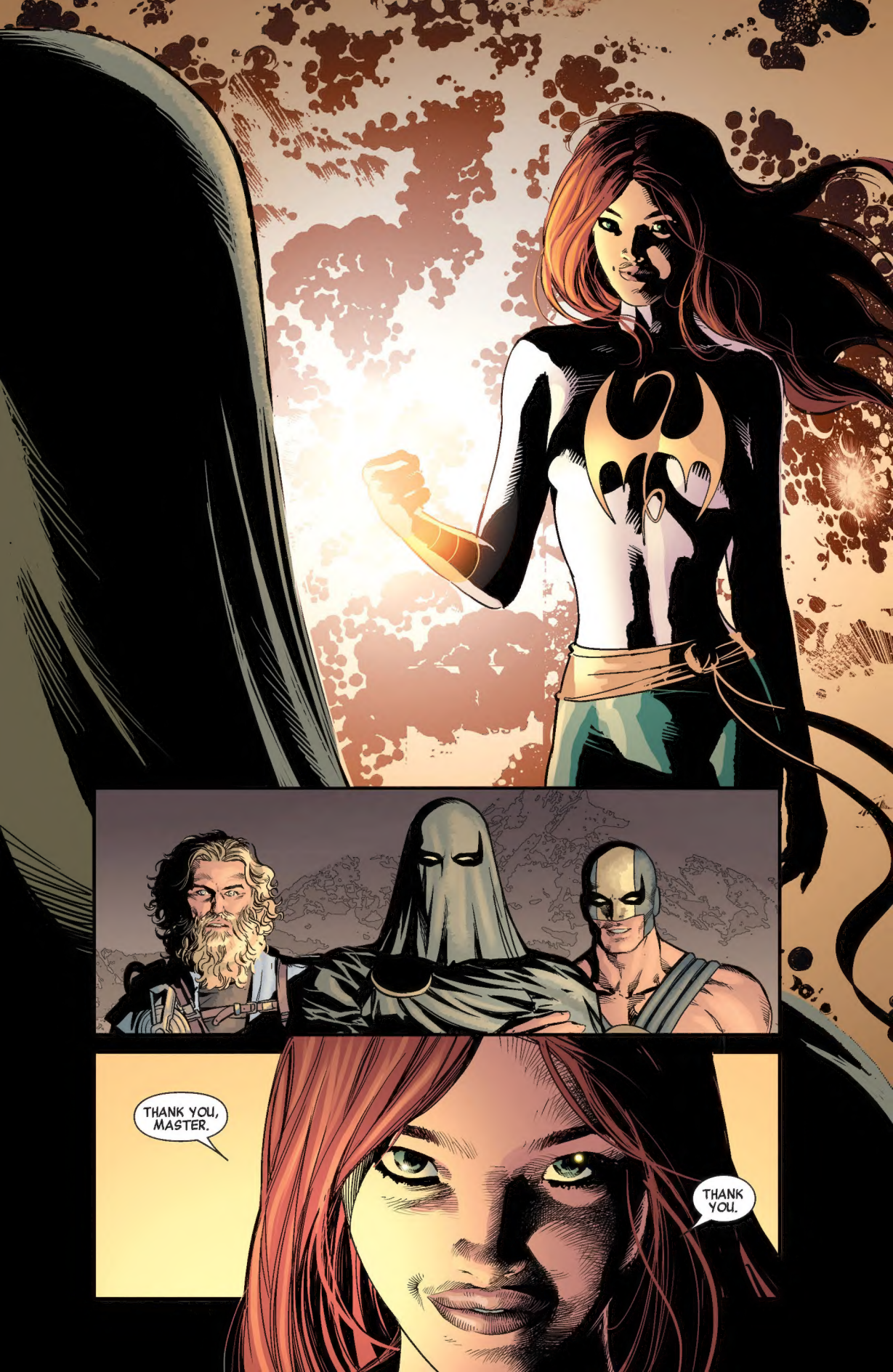

IT IS.
IT IS TIME.

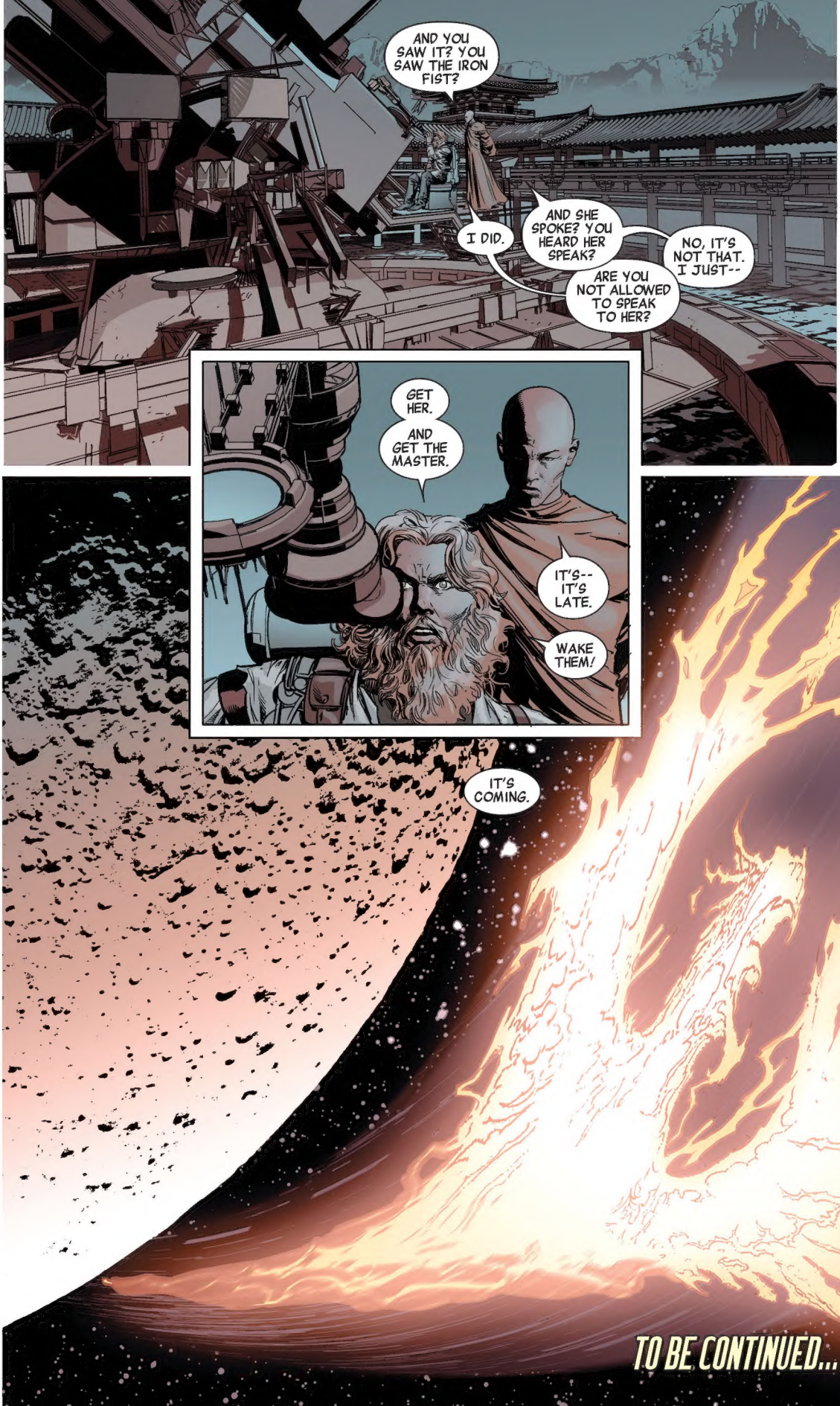

GO.
BE BOLD.
I THOUGHT YOU WOULD APPRECIATE THIS, LEONARDO.
WHAT IS HAPPENING EXACTLY?
THIS IS THE RITUAL OF THE IRON FIST.
SHE IS ABOUT TO MEET THE DRAGON SHAO LAO. SHE WILL BATTLE IT AND IF SHE IS SUCCESSFUL, SHE WILL BE BEQUEATHED THE POWER OF THE DRAGON FIRE.
THE WEAPON OF THE IMMORTAL IRON FIST.
AND IF SHE DOESN'T?
THEN MAYBE YOU WILL GIVE IT A TRY.
I'M SORRY?
THE MASTER IS JOKING. YOU WOULD DIE BEFORE YOU EVEN MADE IT INSIDE.
SHE WILL COME THROUGH. SHE HAS TO. IT HAS BEEN FORETOLD.
I'M SORRY. IS THERE A REAL DRAGON IN THERE?
AS OPPOSED TO A MAKE-BELIEVE ONE?

2 days later

IT IS DONE.




THANK YOU, MASTER.
THANK YOU.


AND YOU SAW IT? YOU SAW THE IRON FIST?
I DID.
AND SHE SPOKE? YOU HEARD HER SPEAK?
NO, IT'S NOT THAT. I JUST--
ARE YOU NOT ALLOWED TO SPEAK TO HER?
GET HER.
AND GET THE MASTER.
IT'S-- IT'S LATE.
WAKE THEM!
IT'S COMING.
TO BE CONTINUED...

AVS X

NEXT:

THE SEARCH FOR HOPE!

LOYALTIES DIVIDED!

CAPTAIN MARVEL REBORN?

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Megan